

Executive Registry

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20 SEP 1976

Editorial conducted by the Senate Intelligence Committee and *Washington Post*, provided they are not exploited for 1150 15th St. NW, Washington, DC 20005 regarding the rights of American citizens. I think that is good for our country.

Sir:

Sincerely,

Your editorial on Sunday, September 19 (*George Bush and the Old Boy Net*) totally missed the point I had made on various occasions regarding "risk of disclosure".

My point is simply this: I do not think that it is right for an individual member or staff of one of our seven Congressional Oversight Committees -- any more than for a member of the Executive Branch -- to take upon himself publicly to disclose and thus destroy a covert action that has been properly authorized and briefed in accordance with legal, statutory, and administrative procedures now in effect.

I do favor consolidated Congressional oversight. As opposed to reporting to seven Committees of the Congress (I have made more than 35 official appearances before Congress in seven and one-half months as Director of Central Intelligence), personally, I would like to see a Joint Intelligence Committee with representation from both House and Senate and with full but exclusive oversight responsibility.

In the meantime, I am cooperating fully with the various Congressional Committees, and I will continue to do so. At the same time I will speak out against unauthorized disclosure -- against the "leaks" that endanger the lives of people and abort properly determined programs.